

BIRDS ARE HELF TO AGRICULTURE

Pesky English Sparrow Is Usually Nuisance and Often Injurious to Crops.

CROWS AND BLACKBIRDS BAD

Owls Have Long Been Persecuted, but Never Has Persecution Been More Unjust—Feed on Rats, Mice and Other Mammals.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)
The sparrow is a beneficial bird, says the biological survey, United States Department of Agriculture, and should not be regarded as a pest. The single exception to the department's endorsement is the pesky English sparrow of that species, "usually a nuisance and often injurious," and says the department in a booklet, "Farm Help From the Birds." It must be remembered that the introduced English sparrow is but one member of the large family of sparrows and its habits are by no means characteristic of the native species.

Few Birds Classed as Injurious.
They are essentially seed eaters, the sparrows, but they consume also a fair proportion of insects, the department finds, and in general must be regarded as beneficial. Separating the sheep from the goats in the feathered kingdom of common knowledge to the farmer, the department places among the bad birds the jays, crows, ravens and blackbirds, a corporal's guard with the army of good birds, of aid to the farmer, placed in the other classification. Even the bad denizens of the air have some good in them, says the department, and the damage they do the farmer is largely because of overpopulation in the food chain. Of that class, the department says: "It would seem a good policy to accord them the same treatment long given the common crow. The crow is not specially persecuted; neither is it



The Screech Owl Is Beneficial Bird to the Farmer.

protected. About the best that can be said of birds of this family is that on the average they do about as much good as harm."

Owls Perform Useful Service.
"Owls as a group have long been persecuted by man, but never has persecution been more unjust," says the biological survey. More than 50 varieties of owls feed on a great variety of rodents and have useful habits, the booklet continues. In Washington, D. C., the survey recently determined that 675 barn owls had for dinner. Here is the menu, by variety and number of dishes consumed: Meadow lark, 1,119; house mice, 452; house mice, 134; other small mammals, 3 per cent. and the survey found that the barn owl, the booklet says, is typical of that performed by hawks and owls in general. An occasional chicken is consumed, but this loss is far outweighed by the destruction of harmful rodents.

CHECK OFF NEEDED REPAIRS

Good Plan to Make Note of Defects When Machinery Is Being Put Away for Winter.

When the farm machinery is being put away for the winter the owner can profitably check off the repairs that will be necessary before each machine can go out again next season. A five-cent pad of paper ruled in the manner of the implement shed is suggested by the agricultural engineers at the Missouri College of Agriculture as a mighty handy means of jotting down what is needed on each machine. Then on a rainy day or in the slack season the work can be done. System on farms may not yield as big profits as it does in factories, but it pays nevertheless.

BUILDING IN SASKATCHEWAN

About 200 Miles of Road in Course of Construction to Cost at Least \$200,000.

Road work totaling about 200 miles and costing at least \$200,000, is now in course of construction, or about to be commenced, in Saskatchewan as part of the federal aid scheme. Some of the work is being done under contracts awarded by the Saskatchewan department of highways, while other sections are being constructed by departmental day labor gangs.

Plow Under Straw.

Don't burn straw or trash. Plow it under. If it's full of weed seed or insect pests, pile it up in a square-sided, flat-topped compost stack and when it is properly fermented, spread it on the garden or truck patch.

Store Breeding Cows.

The brood cows should be kept in good condition during the winter. They should be kept in a well-ventilated, dry, and comfortable place. They should be fed well and kept clean.

Cause of Sick Poultry.

Poultry houses are frequently causes of colds. Damp floors, leaky roofs, draughty houses or the lack of ventilation will cause sick birds.

Plow Points and Disks.

Before preparing land, see that the plow points and disks are sharp. A good grindstone, hooked onto a small engine will do the work in quick time.

Buy Certified Seed.

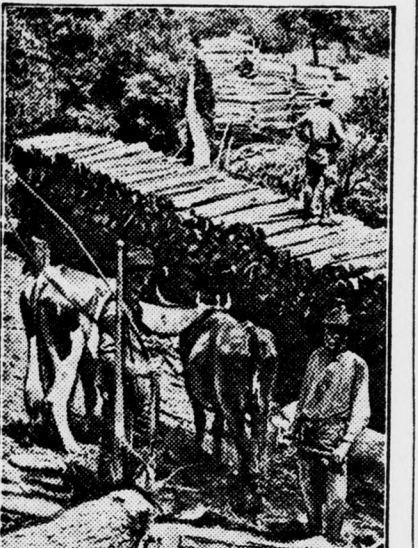
Buy certified seed from a reliable dealer.

DURABILITY OF WOOD CUT IN COLD MONTHS

Method of Handling Logs Has Greatest Influence.

Fungi and Insects Are Conspicuous by Their Absence in Winter Season—There Is No Difference in Moisture Content.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)
Many of the theories advanced regarding the durability of wood attribute too much importance to the time of cutting, say specialists of the forest products laboratory, forest service, United States Department of Agriculture. As a matter of fact, the time of cutting has very little effect upon the durability of other properties if the timber is properly cut. The method



Durability of Wood Is Not Affected by the Time of Cutting.

of handling logs at different times of the year, however, does influence their durability. Timber cut in late fall and winter seasons more slowly and with less checking than during the warmer months, and when stored in storage or handling is impracticable, winter cutting is best. Fungi and insects do not attack wood out of doors in cold weather, but this should be used in connection with the time when weather arrives the wood is partly seasoned and somewhat less susceptible to attack. It is for these reasons that winter cutting is advantageous, not on account of a smaller amount of moisture or sap in the wood in winter, as the popular belief has it. There is practically no difference in moisture content of green wood in winter and summer.

HELPS GROWING WHEAT CROP

Ohio Experiment Station Favors Winter Application of Manure—Fertility Is Added.

Winter application of manure will aid the growing wheat crop, according to the Ohio experiment station, Wooster. Spreading manure over the wheat crop, the station finds, adds six tons per acre more wheat than protection and at the same time adds fertility that will later aid the wheat. While no experiments have been conducted in the topdressing of wheat, the residual effect of manure on wheat shows that the yield is increased from six to eight bushels per acre. If manure is not available, nitrate of soda is sometimes applied in the spring, but this should be used in connection with or following the fall use of acid phosphate to get the best results. When acid phosphate or steamed bonemeal has been used at seeding, nitrate of soda, which is a coarse salt, may be easily sown by hand. The most favorable time is in April, just as the spring growth of wheat is beginning.

SWINE PRODUCTION IN SOUTH

Gaining Considerable Popularity as Source of Food for Corn Belt Section.

The Southern states, particularly Mississippi, have gained considerable popularity as a source of feeder hogs for the corn belt states, reports the United States Department of Agriculture. Well-bred hogs are now being used extensively in the hog-producing section of the South. The average farm feeding hogs are now being produced in large numbers. In some areas cheap pork is made by the use of sweet potato canners' wastes, these materials having valuable fattening properties in large peanut-growing districts hogs are put on at a comparatively low cost.

TOO MUCH HAY IS INJURIOUS

"Haybilly" in Work Horse Is Induced by Prolonged Overfeeding on Bulky Roughage.

"Haybilly" in a work horse indicates inefficiency for labor. It is induced by prolonged overfeeding on bulky roughage. The average farm horse is fed too much hay. Experiments have shown that a work horse when fully fed only requires daily only a little over one pound of good hay for each 100 pounds of his body weight. Feeding more is harmful and wasteful. Feed most of it at night, but also allow a pound or two at noon, while the horse is cooling off. Heaves is caused by over-feeding hay and immediately working a horse after his meals.

Salt Essential for Sheep.

Salt tends to keep the sheep in good state of health and they are better able to ward off attacks of disease or internal parasites. Furthermore, sheep fed plenty of salt shear a better quality and heavier fleece than do those receiving no salt.

Buying That Steer.

When you buy a purchaser, be sure you meet your requirements. Any animal that does not do so is dear at any price.

Water Supply for Stock.

Plan the water supply for the stock this winter. A long cold drive to a creek through bitter winds or driving sleet should be avoided if possible.

Care at Calving Time.

Watch a cow closely when she is about due to calve and have a clean, well bedded box stall which is not exposed to drafts.

Birds Are Beneficial.

Most birds are beneficial; only a few are injurious.

ONE-SIDE EFFECTS

Precision and Exactness Taboo in Dressmaking.

Passing of Mathematical Ideas Has Made Place of Drapery in Great Art in Dress.

Precision and exactness have ceased to find a place in dressmaking, a fashion writer says. Considerable time was wasted in the days when dressmakers measured and remeasured to make sure that both sides of a dress were even or that the trimming was placed in exactly the same way on each side. The passing of an exactness that has made mathematical has made a place for greater art in dress. Costumes of fifty years ago, with their set lines, bear the same relation to the artistically put-together creations of today that a mechanical drawing, in which every line must be exact, bears to a free-hand drawing, in which the artist seeks an outlet for his art. No dressmaker of the present day who makes any pretension whatever to being an artist would for a moment consider balancing the two sides of a dress; that is making one even with the other. The decree is irregular lines and one-side effects.

With the lengthening of skirts, irregular hems are more in evidence than ever. The point of a tunic may trail almost to the ground on one side, while the other side of the skirt is much shorter and cut straight across. This effect extends even to evening wraps and daytime coats, on one side which fasten far over on one side and fall in a point to the hem, or even below the hem. Topsuits sometimes wrap completely around the figure and close at one side of the back.

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A considerable number of these evening dresses are extremely low in cut, but offend in a nude look which is veiled with chiffon or net, which may or may not be spangled or embroidered.

CAMISOLES FOR CHRISTMAS

New patterns in dainty camisoles are just as sure to arrive at Christmas time as Christmas trees and candles are. One of the prettiest of this year's models is made of hot georgette crepe and trimmed with figured pink satin ribbon. It is drawn up at the waistline with baby ribbon, and the top is finished with a wide ribbon through the hem.

Colored Petticoats.

There are most attractive silk petticoats made of silk which is one color on one side, another on the other. Gray and blue, red and blue, orange and gray, green and black and other combinations occur.

IN KERCHIEF COLOR DESIGNS

Dark and Contrasting Shades the Feature of the Latest Style in the Novelty Class.

Some recent imports in handkerchiefs show a return to the colored styles, that have been neglected recently. While the idea of colored handkerchiefs is not new, the designs and treatment are absolutely new. The designs are large and are in instances boldly colored in dark, contrasting shades. As a rule, the colors are quiet, but the patterns are still bold. Blue and tan are favorite shades in these latest named handkerchiefs. The square center of one may be blue, with tan flowers, and in the border, which is left white, the flowers will be repeated in blue. Delicate embroidery on the border is a good feature, considerable of the seed, or rice stitch, which was so popular last season, being seen in new arrangement and design.

Many Neck Ornaments.

The wists of gowns are plain this season and at most the use of color is in the neck ornaments. They are in different shades of the dress color. Pearls, always fashionable, will likely be worn more than ever this season.

FRANCE IS FASHION LEADER

Models of Almost Every Other Country Are Suggested by Styles of Paris.

France has been the acknowledged leader in the world of fashion. So generally accepted is her judgment in the selection of styles that the models of almost every other civilized country of the world are suggested by the styles of Paris. French styles of the last four or five centuries have an important place in the history of costume and a recurrent influence on modern style.

The first definitely American garments were closely modeled after the French styles of the second empire—tight bodices and skirts held up by stiff petticoats. The Quaker dress of the 18th century resembled the jannier skirt of that French period.

But the effect of French fashion extended to the clothing of Europe and America. The improvements in communication that have

LIKE THE RUSSIAN UNIFORM

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This suit of beige perline is trimmed like a Russian uniform—with black astrakhan. A new note is struck in the dress of the skirt, hung over a black foundation to give an apron effect.

CARDS FOR THE CARD PRIZE

Trophy May Be Used Again for Same Purpose—Score Card in Case May Be Added.

After all, there is no nicer bridge party prize than a pack of good playing cards. The cards are not only a prize for her own bridge party, but can pass them on again as a prize; and the cards are not only a prize, but can pass them on again as a prize; and the cards are not only a prize, but can pass them on again as a prize.

Paul's View of Death (v. 6).

1. An offering (v. 6). "I am ready to die for you," said Paul. He meant a death offering—a libation. The shedding of his blood was to be an offering poured out upon the altar as an act of worship. Death can only be an offering to God when the life has been wholly yielded to the deity. Paul, for his part, was not nearly sure of Paul, for he could say, "For to me to live is Christ" (Phil. 1:21).

2. A Departure (v. 6). "The time of my departure is at hand." The same idea is expressed in Philippians 1:23. "Departure" is a nautical term which signifies the leaving of a ship upon its voyage. It is not the end of a voyage, but its beginning. The same idea is expressed in Luke 9:31, where the theme of conversation on the Mount of Transfiguration is said to be the "departure" or "exodus" which Christ should accomplish at Jerusalem. What the "exodus" meant to Israel, and more, death meant to the Christian. To Israel it meant freedom from slavery, freedom from suffering, freedom from sorrow. It was a release from a condition of plenty and joy in life.

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Paul's backward look is presented in three figures: 1. "I have fought a good fight." The Christian life is a warfare of difficulties, conflicts, dangers and temptations. As a soldier, the Christian must fight and overcome all these. 2. "I have finished my course." The figure is that of an athlete who sets out with a race. The Christian life is a race to the finish. 3. "I have kept the faith." The figure is that of a husbandman who has been entrusted a treasure. This treasure was the Christian faith. He was conscious of having been faithful to the trust committed. He had many temptations to give it up, but to the end he maintained his fidelity of his vow to Christ.

4. Paul's Forward Look to the Future (v. 8).

This is a beautiful picture of calm confidence at the end of a period of faithful service. Though knowing that death was awaiting him, there was no gloom, because he had seen the glory of a completed task rested upon him.

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Sunday School Lesson

By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D. D., Teacher of English Bible in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.

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LESSON FOR DECEMBER 18

PAUL'S LAST WORDS.

LESSON TEXT—II Tim. 4:1-8.

GOLDEN TEXT—I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. (Tim. 4:7).

REFERENCE MATERIAL—Rom. 8:37; I Cor. 15:57; Rev. 3:21.

PRIMARY TOPIC—Last Words From Paul.

JUNIOR TOPIC—The Close of a Victorious Life.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—The Close of a Christian's Life.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—The Close of a Christian's Life.

LECTIONS for Today From the Life of Paul.

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